

Special Education Strategic Plan Advisory Council

May 17, 2019

SESPAC Members

*(Members in **bold** were in attendance.)*

Parent Advocates	Special Education Directors/Leaders	Organizations
Sonya Lawrence-Parent Advocate	Dr. Michele Marinucci- Dir. Christina School District and DASEP President	Kendall Massett-DE Charter Network
Bill Doolittle-Parent Advocate	Dr. Lisa Lawson-Dir. Brandywine School District and DASEP VP	Dr. John Marinucci-DE School Boards Association
Dafne Carnright, Autism Delaware	Dr. Josette McCullough-Dir. Appoquinimink School District and DASEP Secretary	Mondaria Batchelor-DSEA Member
Kristin Pidgeon, Down Syndrome Association	Dr. Sarah Celestin-Dir. Red Clay School District and DASEP Treasurer	Kristin Dwyer-DSEA Representative
Annalisa Ekbladh, Autism Delaware	Dr. Jon Cooper-Dir. Colonial School District	Katheryn Herel, Parent Information Center of Delaware
Wendy Strauss-Governor's Advisory Council for Exc. Citizens	Dawn Alexander-Early Childhood Rep, DSEA Member	Rep. Kim Williams, Legislator
Sybil Baker- Governor's Advisory Council for Exc. Citizens	Dr. Vince Winterling-DE Autism Program	Dr. Tammy Croce, Delaware Association for School Administrators
Tika Hartsock-Parent of a child with a disability	Laurie Kettle-Rivera-DE School for Deaf	Deborah Boyer, UD PBS Project
Antonikka Owens-Parent of a child with a hearing impairment	Mark Campano-DE Statewide Programs	Mary Ann Mieczkowski-DE Dept. of Education
Neil Ray-parent of a child with a developmental delay	Jill Scannell-Newark Charter School	Elisha Jenkins, Division for the Visually Impaired
Dr. Debbie Harrington-parent of a child with a visual impairment		

Public Attendees	X if you wish to make Public Comment
Debbie Postles, Christina School District	
Dale Matusevich, DOE	

Agenda Item	Discussion
Welcome	<p>Introductions from all. <u>Dr. MM</u> announced MB has resigned as secretary but not as a council member. <u>Dr. TC</u> agreed to take minutes for this meeting.</p> <p>With regard to passing around the responsibility of taking minutes and posting an agenda, it is felt that would not work well. It involves being available and present at meetings, agenda out ahead of time, sharing information with DOE, sending minutes for review to members and then sending final minutes to the DOE. The person must be competent and able to take notes. The group discussed putting the list of responsibilities out and asking people to volunteer. <u>Rep. KW</u> stated we need people to step up. <u>Dr. MM</u> expressed that she doesn't have time. <u>TH</u> offered to be the first reader and back up for <u>Dr. TC</u> taking minutes. <u>Dr. TC</u> will send draft minutes to <u>TH</u> for first read and when the draft is deemed ready, the minutes will be distributed to group.</p>
Public Comment	<p>A discussion was held regarding having public comment at the end of the meeting. Group also discussed who would post agenda on the public calendar and that lead to how information gets placed on the DOE website.</p> <p><u>Dr. MM</u> stated that the group needs to follow the agenda posted on the public calendar followed by a motion to amend the agenda as posted. Second: <u>Rep. KW</u>. During discussion it was decided that for action you can not add items but for discussion you can. FIOA in public meeting laws. Discussed having a statement on the agenda to allow the chair to make changes</p> <p>There was a brief discussion about reviewing public input with regard to the strategic plan. No one submitted any suggestions. <u>BD</u> stated that it is a living document that can be adjusted as members desire.</p>
Strategic Plan Update	<p>Group had discussion about working to find ways to help the group move forward with its effort and the strategic plan. There is overlap with some other committees/councils with regard to action items in the plan. <u>Dr. LL</u> stated that our group has parents, other groups and legislators working together in this group. It is the only mechanism by which we work together to get things done. It is difficult to get to the meetings sometimes, but the work is important. <u>AE</u> stated that the group sets priority areas does work, and then it screeches to a halt. She questioned the group's importance to DOE, and commented that what has been done legislatively is due to <u>Rep.</u></p>

	<p><u>KW</u> support. <u>AE</u> feels that not everything has to be legislation and could possibly be done directly with DOE as a partner. Perhaps a meeting with the Sec of Ed. Could make progress with the strategic plan by working directly with DOE. <u>Dr. TC</u> share the use of liaison meetings with Sec of Ed with other DASA departments. <u>Dr. MM</u> mentioned that Sec of Ed has been invited, and that yes we do need them to be a partner. We will work to set up a meeting time with the Sec of Ed. <u>BD</u> brought up working in small groups verses committee of the whole. The group discussed that we already have working groups established.</p>
Member Comment	<p><u>BD</u>-discussed DFAC money and how any additional available funds might be used. <u>Rep. KW</u> stated the Sec of Ed presented to OMB, but some things were removed by the Governor. Need to have JFC and Governor support. <u>BD</u> stated he sent his wish list. JFC cautious with ongoing funding. <u>Dr. MM</u> asked if we should have meetings with Jon Sheehan. <u>BD</u> felt when talking dollars you need to meet with Mike Jackson.</p> <p><u>Dr. LL</u> - 1.1.1 was diploma. 1.2 and 1.3 we have an issue with earning course credit at high school level. State of DE requirements for all students are ridiculous in comparison to MD. MD no algebra II or language. <u>Dr. LL</u> discussed dropout and graduation rate. Why have these requirements for students looking to take a different path. In PA you can modify course and still get credit. Been told there are parent groups forming around this issue. We can change without funding or legislation. Also discussed three classes in a pathway and how that doesn't always work for students. MD has algebra spread over two years, credit for each toward math credit requirement. Process guides for problem solving. Discussed resources going to foreign language supports for sp needs students. <u>Rep. KW</u> brought up the middle school foreign language students take, then have to take in HS to get credit. There is a need to have conversations in middle school with parents and students. Need to discuss with curriculum directors, what gets a credit. <u>Dr. LL</u>-is it in code or regulation? <u>BD</u>-code. AE asked if we could go with IEP team determining graduation requirements like PA. Dale Matusevich-can't rush the process so need to investigate and be thoughtful about what we do. <u>Dr. MM</u> -do in liaison meeting. <u>Rep. KW</u>-also DOE rep should be taking it back to the Dept. Dale asked for specific asks. <u>Dr. LL</u>-graduation requirement relinquished around algebra II and foreign language. Or break harder courses into two years and get a credit for each year. Dale-everything has to be tied to ESSA. <u>Dr. LL</u>-duplicate MD model. Modification doesn't mean the student doesn't get the credit, third ask. That would be a DOE clarification to curriculum directors. Dale-how much of a modification is</p>

allowed? That becomes the issue. Dr. MM-of other states, who has done something with this? With regard to modifications? Dale-it is very subjective so I don't know who has figured it out.

Early Childhood: DA stated they voted on new resolutions. Governance of early childhood. Office of child care licensing going to DOE, Part C to DOE. Legislation SB 103. Providers need help to provide the best services to children. They need to be Included in Professional Development. Many reasons to include them under DOE. Universal preschool, would support inclusion, looking for Senate bill soon. Someone asked about Rodel leading that charge. Rep. KW discussed how early childhood educators for years have tried to get support for funding for preschool. Rodel listened. There may be issues that frustrate people with Rodel, but they are willing to support this. Early childhood has been disrespected and underfunded for a long time. Work is important so we need to support. Rep. KW thanked DA for her work in this area. Stating, that DA doesn't stop, she keeps at it and that made Senator Poore and Rep. KW listen and understand. TH spoke positively about the work. PNC sponsored this work too. Dormant for a decade. It took PNC, Rodel, Leg, Dusty Blakey and Heath Chasanov to forward this work around early childhood ed. It is a non-partisan campaign to get all four year olds pre-school. It doesn't put private providers out of business. Dr. LL asked if we willing to put our stamp, SESPAC, on this campaign. AE stated she was glad Rodel is putting resources toward this. Birth mandate issue was discussion with them. Looking for data to get support for this in a typical peer setting. All students would have opportunities for inclusive classrooms. Agreed to add those with birth mandate the one to one and 3+ students. BD asked if Rodel understands what the modern model looks like. LL stated that if we make it too big it won't go so this sign on is just for 4 yr olds. Rep. KW if the early childhood inclusion committee was working on a new manual or guideline. Suggested we put on next month's agenda to see if we will support or not. Dr. MM stated we will attached document to the minutes. Dr. MM asked for any other leg updates?

Rep. KW stated that she would like direction on moving forward with a bill to move all statewide programs out of Christina to DOE. Dr. MM clarified it doesn't impact the Brennan programs. Some questioned where they going under DOE? Rep. KW stated that had to be figured out. All birth mandates to DOE? Rep. KW stated she was asking the group's feelings about it. Dr. MM recused herself from the conversation. TH asked what is the rationale? Rep. KW stated statewide program should be under state not a district. Dr. LL

	<p>stated it is not equitable for all the districts when it sits in one district in NCC. Doesn't make sense for one area to sit in DHSS. Should sit in one place for all disabilities. <u>Rep. KW</u> gave some specific examples such as technology not following a student from district to district. <u>BD</u> stated-under authority of DOE so gives some flexibility with actual structure. <u>Dr. LL</u> provided financial examples regarding district paying for services (fee for service).</p> <p><u>AE</u> stated-Autism program Director goes into districts to monitor so it is one district going in to monitor another district. <u>Rep. KW</u> commented on more efficient use of funds. This restructure won't happen overnight. Someone in the group commented that statewide accountability is huge in this. <u>BD</u> stated there is better access to one time statewide funding. <u>Rep. KW</u> spoke with Representative Jaques this week, has been a conversation for years about this issue. <u>AE</u> stated the Dept is working on updated MOU with Christina and the statewide program. <u>Dr. MM</u> stated that outside of statewide program conversation, the student device issue goes beyond the statewide piece. Can be solved in a different way so devices follow the student.</p>
Focus Areas: Statewide Programs Update	<p><u>Dr. LL</u> stated that MC is trying to move forward with a pilot. IEP task force. <u>BD</u> stated for clarification purpose it is not to add to the strategic plan. Looking to improve the IEP process. Next meeting is when people can come to the table with any areas in the IEP process where there may be gaps. This summer will have list pretty solid. Probably important to communicate this so we should try to get on as many sp ed councils in districts as possible.</p>
Focus Areas: Mental Health Update	<p><u>Dr. MM</u> discussed the Lt. Governor's work. Great conf in May. Well done event glad I was able to go. 30 slots for people to be trained as trainers for youth mental health first aid through NAMI. Go out and train other educators in understanding first aid for mental health challenges for youth. Similar training for adults. If interested in being one of the 30, let <u>Dr. MM</u> know. Training is intense. If you send me an interest email I'll send you all the information around what you have to do. Five days of training. Then committed to doing a number of sessions per year. Have to be a person who has a mental health condition or be a caregiver for someone who has a mental health condition. Lt Gov Behavioral Health Consortium is doing this.</p> <p>BHC program, middle school. Last meeting we found out there was an issue with the contract. BHC where hired by kids dept as vendors then they were deemed to be employees of kids dept. <u>Dr. MM</u> stated she heard it will be</p>

	<p>resolved. <u>Dr. LL</u> stated-will fix the issue the feds found on the back end. There are some ways to correct the problem. Bottom line is those positions will be in middle schools via the resolution.</p> <p><u>Dr. LL</u>-school counselors are being advised not to engage themselves with students who have mental health issues. Who is to serve students with these needs is the issue.</p>
Next Steps	<p>The group will reconvene on June 21st from 9am until 12pm at <i>Appoquinimink Professional Development Center</i>.</p> <p>The Agenda items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Goal Area Updates • Committee Member General Updates • Old Business • New Business • Public Comment • Adjournment
Adjournment	<p><u>Dr. MM</u> closed meeting and will send a Doodle Pool out to find a summer meeting date. <u>Dr. MM</u> adjourned the meeting and dismissed the council at 11:42am.</p>